

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DHA-02 CU-02 OMB-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /072 W

-----171952 082583 /46

R 170845Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 0665

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, SHUM, PINS, SN, UK

SUBJECT: MAJOR COMMUNIST NETWORK ROUNDED UP BY GOS

REFS: A) SINGAPORE 0601 B) 76 SINGAPORE 2140 C) 76 SINGAPORE 2812

1. G. RAMAN, DETAINED UNDER THE INTERNAL SECURITY ACT ON FEBRUARY 10 (REF A), HAS CONFESSED TO BEING A COMMUNIST. DOCUMENTS RELEASED BY ISD SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH RAMAN'S CONFESSION CONFIRM THE LONG-HELD GOS SUSPICION THAT CERTAIN EURO-COMMUNISTS HAVE PLOTTED TO DISCREDIT THE GOVERNMENT OF SINGAPORE AND WERE BEHIND THE MOVE TO EXPEL THE PAP FROM THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL (REF C). LETTERS DATING BACK TO 1972, SEIZED BY ISD IN RAMAN'S HOME, TASKED RAMAN WITH PROVIDING MATERIAL TO "DOCUMENT" PROPAGANDA LINES BEING PUSHED TO AN IMMEDIATE AUDIENCE OF LEFTIST ACADEMICS, STUDENT GROUPS AND CRITICAL LEARNED JOURNALS. ACCORDING TO HIS CONFESSION, RAMAN WAS INVOLVED WITH PRO-COMMUNIST GROUPS DERIVED FROM MEMBERS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE SOCIALIST CLUB, FELLOW LAW STUDENTS IN LONDON, AND EXISTING NETWORKS SET UP BY OLD CPM CADRES, DR. POH SOO KAI (REF B) AND T.T. RAJAH.

2. AS DIRECT RESULT OF RAMAN'S CONFESSION, NINE MORE INDIVIDUALS

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WERE DETAINED BY GOS ON FEBRUARY 16. EIGHT ARE PROBABLY COMMUNISTS (MOST ARE FORMER LONG-TERM DETAINEES) AND ARE ALLEGED TO HAVE COMPRISED RAMAN'S INNER WORKING GROUP TO PROVIDE SLANTED DATA TO EURO-COMMUNISTS. INCLUDED IN THIS GROUP ARE A PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT, A LAWYER, A SINGAPORE AIRLINES MARKETING MANAGER, A COMPANY SECRETARY WITH A LOCAL HOTEL GROUP AND A PROPERTY MANAGER. THE NINTH DETAINEE, ARUN SENKUTTUVAN, IS

FORMER FEER CORRESPONDENT AND PRESENTLY STRINGER FOR FINANCIAL TIMES, ECONOMIST, ETC. ARUN HAS NOT PREVIOUSLY BEEN DETAINED AND HIS INVOLVEMENT, IF ANY, IN AFFAIR, IS NOT CLEAR.

3. ISD, AND BY INFERENCE PRIME MINISTER LEE KUAN YEW, IS QUITE VEXED WITH GREAT BRITAIN FOR ALLOWING THE EURO-COMMUNISTS, LED BY MALCOLM CALDWELL OF LONDON UNIVERSITY, ACCORDING TO HOME AFFAIRS MINISTRY PRESS RELEASE, TO "OPERATE FROM THE SAFE SANCTUARY OF BRITISH SOIL...OBVIOUSLY WITHOUT HINDRANCE FROM THE BRITISH AUTHORITIES." SELECTED DOCUMENTS BEING POUCHED.

4. COMMENT: GOS SEEMS TO BE UNRAVELING MAJOR COMMUNIST INTELLIGENTSIA NETWORK. RAMAN'S LENGTHY AND DETAILED CONFESSION, SUPPORTED BY INCRIMINATING EVIDENCE (SEIZED BY AUTHORITIES IN HIS HOME), IS VERY CONVINCING. JUDGING FROM LARGE NUMBER OF APPARENT LEADS IN PUBLICLY DISCLOSED DOCUMENTS, FURTHER ARRESTS ARE LIKELY. IN PURSUING LEADS PROVIDED BY RAMAN, MAJOR PROBLEM FOR ISD WILL BE TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN PRO-CPM TYPES AND DELUDED LEFTISTS -- BUT GOS HAS RECENT GOOD RECORD FOR RELEASING MINOR CHARACTERS WHEN NEUTRALIZED.

5. ALTERATION IN NORMAL ISD PROCEDURE OF PROVIDING PRESS RELEASE REPORTED REFTTEL NOW BELIEVED TO BE CAUSED BY ANNOYANCE WITH UK, OVER DEGREE OF COOPERATION IN INVESTIGATION AND CLAIMED INABILITY OF HMG TO MOVE AGAINST CALDWELL, RATHER THAN BY ANY DISAGREEMENT WITHIN GOS OVER DESIRABILITY OF DETAINING RAMAN.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMMUNISTS, ARRESTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 17-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SINGAP00665
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Format: TEL
From: SINGAPORE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770231/aaaabbsb.tel
Line Count: 97
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Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Reference: 77 SINGAPORE 601, 76 SINGAPORE 2140, 76 SINGAPORE 2812
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Date: 22-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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Review Release Date: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3294954
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MAJOR COMMUNIST NETWORK ROUNDED UP BY GOS
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, PINS, SN, UK, (RAMAN, G)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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